Condition of labourers in unorganised sector

†1729. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers in unorganized sector at present in the country as per recent report of ILO;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite economic liberalisation policies status of these labourers is just like that of contractual native labourers under British Rule if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing provision in the economic policies for livelilhood, medical facilities and education for the poors/labourers; and

(d) the factual details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in a survey conducted in 1999-2000 has estimated that out of 39 crore workers in the country, about 37 crore(93%) are in the unorganized sector. A book recently released by ILO has reported that more than 90% of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector.

(b) to (d): The Government has initiated several measures for the welfare of the labourers in the unorganised sector. The Government have set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers *i.e.* beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. The welfare measures include health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. In addition to this, the Government is implementing various poverty alleviation/ employment generations schemes. Further, Janshree Bima Yojana(JBY) providing for insurance cover is also available to the people living below or marginally above the poverty line including several occupational groups for the workers in the unorganised sector. The scholarship to the children of the beneficiaries of Janshree Bima Yojana studying in class 9th to 12th is also available. The Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) providing for health insurance of Rs. 30,000/- per year as hospitalization costs is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

being implemented for the people living below the poverty line. The Government has also constituted a National Commission for the Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector to examine the problems facing enterprises in the unorganised/informal sector. The terms of reference of the Comission, *inter-alia,* include review of the status of unorganised/informal sector in India including the nature of enterprises, magnitude of employment; identifying constraints faced by small enterprises and review of the social security system available for labour in the informal sector, and make recommendations for expanding their coverage. Recently the Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides of 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Government also propose to enact a comprehensive legislation to provide social security and welfare measures to the workers in the unorganized sector.

Insurance scheme for agricultural labourers

1730. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the insurance scheme for agricultural labourers was extended only to 50 districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether this scheme has been closed now; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana -2001 on pilot basis through Life Insurance Corporation of India in 50 districts of the country.

(b) A Statement is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Due to financial constraints, the scheme has since been closed.